

**Eastwood (Notts.) Urban District
Council.**

Dr. DUNCAN M. FORBES, F.R.C.S.,

REPORT

AS

Medical Officer of Health,

From JANUARY 1st to DECEMBER 31st, 1910.

EASTWOOD ;

G. C. BRITTAIN & SONS, LTD., Printers, Nottingham Road.

8/2/11.

Eastwood, January 4th, 1911.

TO THE EASTWOOD URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,—

I have once more the honour of presenting my Annual Report as your Medical Officer.

In accordance with an order of the Local Government Board, dated December 13th, 1910, and entitled "The Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Order, 1910," I beg to report upon the following matters :—

A.—As far as I can see at the present time there are no adverse influences threatening the health of the District. The prevalence of open closets and middens is at all times a possible source of trouble, but in Eastwood this is minimised owing to the excellent frequent and regular method of emptying them. I am glad to find a disposition to adopt closet pans and dustbins where water closets are deemed too expensive.

The only epidemic during 1910 was one of Measles, but it was largely confined to the parts bordering on the parish of Greasley. During the latter part of December there was an outbreak of Mumps similar to what was experienced in the surrounding districts.

I am glad to inform you that we had no case of Enteric Fever during the year, and this is the first free year since the formation of the Council.

The cases of Notifiable Infectious Diseases were as follows :—

Scarlet Fever	12
Diphtheria	8
Erysipelas	2
	—
Total	22
	—

The total is 8 more than in 1909. Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever accounted for increase.

I would like to point out that Eastwood is in a far better condition to-day than ever before. In 1897 when a register of infectious cases was first kept, there were no fewer than 92 cases reported, as against 22 in the year under consideration.

B.—There have been no special inquiries during the year, and no general inquiries other than the regular visits of the Inspector.

C.—The Inspector of Nuisances, Mr. A. G. Wheeler, has performed his duties in a thoroughly efficient, scientific, and satisfactory manner. In fact I consider it as largely due to him that the district has been in such a healthy condition. We had one period of three months during which no infectious disease was notified. A serious case of nuisance on property at New Eastwood was brought forward during my absence in the South of England, and thanks to the energetic action of your Inspector, strongly backed by his Committee, an action was commenced against the owner, and the very serious sanitary defects remedied in the statutory period (I beg to recommend Dr. Robey to your favourable notice for the part he took as acting Medical Officer in this case). Your Inspector is now engaged in a systematic house to house inspection as required by the "Housing and Town Planning Act," and a full report will be laid before you shortly.

In this connection I have ordered the closing of certain houses on the Canal Side, known variously as "Noah's Ark" and "Goose Holes," as they are totally unfit for human habitation. Your Inspector has given much time and attention to the thorough disinfection of all houses in which infectious cases have been notified, and has given advice to the tenants thereon.

The Council is to be congratulated on having so thoroughly efficient and able a servant, and one who is conversant with all the duties of an Inspector of Nuisances.

D.—Much of the milk sold in Eastwood comes from surrounding districts where I have no jurisdiction whatever. The Milkshops and Dairies in my district are clean and wholesome, and your Inspector pays special attention to the work required under the Act dealing with them.

E.—Of foods other than milk there is not much to be said. The shops are clean and wholesome as a rule, and nearly all the purveyors of meat are provided with cold storage. I certainly do not approve of the presence of

slaughter houses in the centre of dwellings, but as they are old established ones I presume nothing can be done to remove them. Pigs should certainly not be kept practically under the same roof. There have been no prosecutions under the "Food and Drugs Act."

F.—There is a pure and abundant supply of water from the Nottingham Corporation's Works at Papplewick, even in the driest seasons.

G.—The river Erewash continues in a polluted condition owing to the prevalence of sewage from Derbyshire parishes. It is often a source of danger to men and animals as well.

H.—The year 1910 saw for the first time really adequate sewage disposal works. For many years it has been the rule to speak in the future tense, and to say much about "schemes" and proposals, but I am glad to be informed by those responsible for the latest developments at the Outfall Works that we are at last in a position to adequately deal with, not only the present large volume of sewage, but also a considerable increase should it occur.

Eastwood may now be considered as a non-polluter of the river Erewash. The present Urban Council did an excellent piece of work when it grasped so thorny a question and decided to make a success of so many years' failure.

All parts are now connected with the main sewer except a small cluster of houses below the southern level, but the old difficulty here is removed by an arrangement for pumping out the new tank at short intervals. The absence of Enteric during the year points to a much improved sanitary condition.

I.—Privies still form the great majority of closets, but we are gradually improving. There is an increase in both pans and water closets. The former are a great improvement on privies, but the only safe system is the water closet. The privy, owing to its attraction for flies during the summer months (and the closet pan to a less extent), are sources of real danger, to say nothing about the disagreeable stench. Most, if not all, the ashpits have been altered so as not to be below the level of the ground. There are still a few requiring roofing over.

J.—The arrangements for removing house refuse and the contents of ashpits, etc., by the Council's carts continue to be satisfactory. I am glad to notice that a disinfectant and deodoriser is used in each case. An improvement might perhaps be made if a man could occasionally visit some of the ashpits between the emptyings and sprinkle disinfectant.

K.—We have not yet got the work required under the Housing and Town Planning Act into thorough working order. This Act will entail a considerable amount of work on your officers in addition to what they are already paid for. What is known as the Langley Mill or western side of the town is now under inspection and has nearly been completed. It is in this district I have ordered the closing of four back to back houses, which in recent years have become veritable slum, and have neither drainage nor water supply, and are not fit for animals, let alone human beings. These houses must be closed at once and for ever, as no amount of alteration can make them satisfactory. Their situation alone would condemn them.

I am glad to observe in the building of new house property a tendency to the artistic, for the general appearance of Eastwood streets is drab and depressing in the extreme, and points to a lack of ideas and design on the part of former architects and builders of dwelling houses. If an architect is not also an artist he has no business in the profession.

L.—The table of vital statistics is attached. You will observe a further satisfactory decline in infant mortality. From 1903 to 1909 the average was 140.6 per 1,000 births, but in 1910 it was only 90.9. It is still too high. The improvement is partly accounted for by better sanitation and roads.

The new Schools for girls and infants are in full working order and most admirably adapted for the purposes of education. They are lofty, well ventilated, properly heated, and can be maintained at an equable temperature during all kinds of weather. The playground is adequate, and the closet accommodation of the latest pattern. The cookery centre is also well arranged and should be of very material use to the coming generation of housewives.

I understand that No. 2 Infants' School has been condemned, but no proposals are as yet before the Managers.

The Boys' School is much improved, but one classroom is inadequately ventilated. This should be attended to at once.

The Births for 1910 were 121. Boys 55 and girls 66. This was 33 less than in 1909, and may perhaps be partly accounted for by the removal of so many families owing to the dispute in the coal trade, and partly to the present tendency to less families, and consequently to a diminishing birth-rate. It is the lowest in Eastwood for many years. There were five weeks when no births occurred, and three in which were neither births nor deaths.

The Deaths for the year were 58, a decrease of 5 on the year. There were 17 weeks in which no deaths occurred.

There was not, as in 1909, an outstanding cause of death. The principal causes were: Bronchitis 6, Pneumonia 6, and Heart Disease 6. There were four cases of Cancer and four of tuberculosis. Three persons were found drowned, and there was one case of the overlaying of an infant.

The Factories and Workshops have been regularly visited and comply with the Acts relating thereto.

The chief industry is coal mining, but during the year a dispute affecting three Pits seriously disorganised both the coal trade and the general trade of the district. The dispute lasted practically six months, but was amicably settled in December, and caused no rioting or disturbance whatever.

Owing to this dispute many families left the town, and there are at present more unoccupied houses than ever before. A new residential street (Ratcliffe-street) has been opened, and the houses already erected are attractive and convenient.

There is a movement on foot to attract some other industry to the town to supplement the coal mining, and, if possible, give work to the girls and women. For this purpose land may be obtained free.

There are no public baths or washhouses. The streets are kept well paved and clean, but the footpaths to the new Schools require repairing. As this is at present a private road it is not the fault of your Council.

The geographical situation remains unchanged.

The subsidence of the ground in consequence of coal-mining causes much damage to sewers, gas, and water mains.

There is no isolation hospital, but satisfactory arrangements have been made with Basford Rural District Council, so that whenever necessary, Eastwood cases can at once be removed.

There are no offensive trades.

The usual tables of statistics are appended.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

DUNCAN M. FORBES, F.R.C.S.

TABLE I.

EASTWOOD (NOTTS.) URBAN DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1910 and previous Years.

Year	Population estimated to middle of each year	Births		Total Deaths registered in the District				Nett Deaths at all ages belonging to the District.	
		Number	Rate	Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages		Number	Rate
				Number	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number	Rate		
1903	5100	173	34	23	133	72	14	72	14
1904	5200	138	26	24	173·8	69	13	69	13
1905	5200	137	26	27	197	80	15	80	15
1906	5200	140	26·8	18	128·5	51	9·8	51	9·8
1907	5200	137	26·3	19	139·4	65	12·5	65	12·5
1908	5200	137	26·5	14	102·2	61	11·7	61	11·7
1909	5220	154	29·5	17	110·3	63	12·1	63	12·1
Averages for years 1900 to 1909	5188	145·1	27·9	20·28	140·6	65·8	12·59	65·8	12·59
1910	5000	121	24·2	11	90·9	58	11·6	58	

Area of District in Acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 940

Total Population at all ages... .. 4820

Number of inhabited houses at present 1140

Average Number of Persons per house

TABLE III.

EASTWOOD (NOTTS.) URBAN DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1910.

Notifiable Disease	Cases Notified in whole District					
	At all Ages	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards
Diphtheria (including Membranous Group) ...	8	2	3	3		
Erysipelas ...	2				2	
Scarlet Fever ...	12	4	8			
Totals ...	22	6	11	3	2	

Isolation Hospital—Nil.

TABLE IV.

EASTWOOD (NOTTS.) URBAN DISTRICT.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1910.

Causes of Death	Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District						
	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and up- wards
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Measles	2	1	1				
Diphtheria (includ- ing Membranous Croup)	1		1				
Enteric Fever	1					1	
Enteritis	3	1				1	1
Phthisis (Pulmon- ary Tuberculosis)	3					3	
Other Tuberculous diseases	1				1		
Cancer, malignant disease	4					1	3
Bronchitis	6						6
Pneumonia	6		1	2			3
Other diseases of respiratory organs	1	1					
Alcoholism, Cirr- hosis of Liver...	1						1
Premature Birth...	1	1					
Diseases and accid- ents of parturi- tion	1				1		
Heart diseases	6					2	4
Accidents	2	1					1
Found drowned	3		1	1		1	
Cerebral diseases...	4						4
Infantile diseases..	6	6					
All other causes ...	6					2	4
All causes	58	11	4	3	2	11	27

TABLE IV.—(Continued).

Causes of Death.	Deaths at all ages of Residents belonging to Localities, whether occurring in or beyond the District.			
	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards	
Accidents		1		
All other causes	1	2	1	
All causes	1	3	1	

TABLE V.

EASTWOOD (NOTTS.) URBAN DISTRICT.
 INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1910.
 Deaths from Stated Causes in Weeks and Months under
 One Year of Age.

Cause of Death	Under 1 Week	1--2 Weeks	2--3 Weeks	Total under 1 Month	1--2 Months	2--3 Months	3--4 Months	4--5 Months	5--6 Months	6--7 Months	7--8 Months	8--9 Months	10--11 Months	11--12 Months	Total Deaths under One Year
Measles													1		1
Enteritis									1						1
Premature birth	1			1											1
Debility		1		1	1								1		3
Jaundice					1										1
Meningitis													1		1
Suffocation					1										1
Other causes						1								1	2
															11

Births in the Year—Legitimate	121
Deaths in the Year of Legitimate Infants	11
Deaths from all Causes at all Ages	58

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces, and Homework.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or
Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.		Inspections.	Written Notices
Factories	15	2
Workshops	72	5
		—	—
	Total ...	87	7

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.	
	Found.	Remedied
Want of Cleanliness 2 2
Want of Ventilation 2 2
Other Nuisances... 3 3
	—	—
	7	7

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Co-operative Society's Bakehouse	1
Mr. Smedley's Bakehouse	1
F. G. Stubbs, Builder & Joiner, with Machinery...	...	1
J. King, Chaff Cutting with Machinery	1
J. Hirst & Sons, Saddlers (Cellar)	1
C. Barker (Gas Engine)	1
Other Workshops	18
	—	—
Total Number of Workshops on Register	...	24

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act	1
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